

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1-6 and 8 are cancelled, and claim 7 is amended. Thus, claim 7 is active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for kindly indicating, in item 9 on page 8 of the Office Action, that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations recited in claim 1 as presented in the March 6, 2006 Amendment. Accordingly, in view of the Examiner's assertion that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 1, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 7 is clearly in condition for allowance.

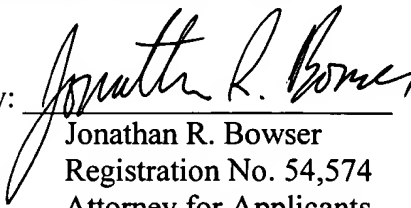
Without intending to acquiesce to the prior art rejections of claims 1-6 and 8 and merely to expedite allowance of the application, claims 1-6 and 8 have been cancelled. Therefore, only allowable claim 7 remains in the application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Yoshinori MATSUI et al.

By: 
Jonathan R. Bowser
Registration No. 54,574
Attorney for Applicants

JRB/nrj
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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